

**REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED DOG TATTOOERS  
UNDER ACT 309 OF 1939**

Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Animal Industry Division  
P.O. Box 30017  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 373-1077

1. The designee shall be a veterinarian currently licensed and USDA accredited in Michigan.
2. If the designee is not a currently licensed and USDA accredited veterinarian, then the designee shall be a person who has a minimum of one years experience working with dogs. This experience shall include handling and restraining dogs in a humane manner. Please indicate experience on the application.
3. The tattooing shall be done in accordance with Act 309 of 1939 (copy attached).
4. If the dog being tattooed does not have enough ear tissue on which to place the tattoo number, this fact shall be stated on the application form, and other areas shall be indicated where tattoo was applied.
5. Tattooing shall be done in a humane manner. The use of tranquilizers, analgesics and/or anesthetics may be required. A designated non-veterinarian shall immediately refer to a designated veterinarian any dog which requires marked manual restraint or who appears to be feeling pain during the tattooing process so that appropriate tranquilizers, analgesics and/or anesthetics may be used.
6. Tattooing shall be done in an aseptic manner.
7. The designated tattooer shall be responsible for returning properly completed application forms including the tattoo number and the application fees to the Michigan Department of Agriculture within 14 days.
8. Application forms currently require notarization to help assure that the person claiming to be the owner of the dog is in fact the owner of the dog. Notarization is preferred but will not be required.
9. The tattooer's name, address and designation number shall appear at the bottom on the dog identification application form.
10. Any Michigan tattoo number given to the designee shall remain with the designee only. The pre-numbered application forms shall be return to the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the event the designee is no longer tattooing dogs under Act 309 of 1939.
11. The maximum fee a designee shall charge is \$10 for applying the tattoo. This shall not include any veterinary fees for items such as examination and administration of drugs for restraint, analgesia and/or anesthesia.
12. Designation may be revoked if the designee violates any of the above requirements.
13. A dog's tattoo number will not be registered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture until the properly completed application form (top and bottom) and application fee have been returned.
14. A dog's tattoo number will not be registered until the tattooer is officially designated.
15. Outdated dog identification application forms will not be accepted.
16. It is preferable to use a needle type tattoo device than a clamp type device to tattoo the dog. Caution must be used to prevent the formation of an aural hematoma.
17. After you have been designated, in order to obtain pre-numbered dog identification forms, you need to request them by calling or writing our office. Application forms will not be automatically sent to you.